

# Army Sets Up Hot Line To Counter Espionage

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 8 — The Army is setting up a program with a toll-free telephone number that is intended to help catch spies, discover possible security risks and train soldiers to identify both, Army officials said today.

The officials acknowledged that the program had a potential for abuse by soldiers making false accusations. "We're mindful of that," said William M. Dwyer, the Army civilian counterintelligence official in charge of the program, the CALL SPY hot line.

He said legal and procedural safeguards had been devised in an effort to prevent abuses. Agents trained to recognize genuine signs of espionage take the calls and prepare reports that are reviewed by two superiors before an investigation is started, he said.

Mr. Dwyer said reports of inquiries that failed to turn up evidence of illegal behavior would be destroyed after 90 days. The Army was widely criticized in the early 1970's for compiling dossiers on civilians protesting the Vietnam War.

## 'We've Gone Bananas'

The program got off to a premature start in early March when an article describing it appeared in The Army Times, an unofficial publication. Information from the article was used by newspapers and radio stations near Army posts.

"We've gone bananas since then," Mr. Dwyer said. In less than a month, the toll-free number that began operating last year on a test basis, has received more than 2,000 calls. The number, 1-800-CALL SPY (225-5779), is answered 24 hours a day at a counterintelligence office at Fort Meade, Md.

Mr. Dwyer said the idea for the counterespionage number came up in October 1985 in the wake of charges that a Navy warrant officer, John A. Walker Jr., as well as relatives and a friend, had spied for the Soviet Union.

Each of the military services reviewed its security measures at that time and senior Army officers reported an increase in attempts by Soviet and East European intelligence services to recruit American soldiers.

Other cases involving members of the armed forces, including one in which two Marine guards assigned to the United States Embassy in Moscow are suspected of spying for the Soviet Union, appear to have heightened that concern.

## A Low-Cost Operation

As part of a campaign to make soldiers aware of possible espionage, the toll-free number was tested at four Army posts from March through November 1986. Mr. Dwyer said the tests showed the program could be operated with existing personnel with the only added cost being \$2,000 a year for telephone service.

Mr. Dwyer said that as a counterespionage action, the response was "not overwhelming," because none of the tips led to an investigation. But he said the number turned up more cases than expected of questionable behavior that might make a soldier susceptible to an approach by a spy.

Members of the Army who drank too much, boasted about access to secret information or fell deeply in debt were reported on the number. Allegations were referred to commanding officers with recommendations that the offender be warned or counseled.

While the tests were being conducted, Mr. Dwyer said, the Army consulted with officials in charge of a Defense Department toll-free call-in service set up seven years ago to help uncover waste and fraud in military spending or procurement.

## Suspicion List Planned

Benjamin J. Simon, the supervisor of that program, provided guidance on how to process the calls, keep records and handle crank calls or callers who just wanted to chat, Mr. Dwyer said.

At the end of April, when the new program goes into full operation, the Army plans to give each soldier, along with his monthly pay statement, a list of things that could be linked to spying. They include short trips out of the country, returning secret documents to safes early in the morning or living beyond one's means.

Mr. Dwyer said anonymous calls would be accepted but that people who identified themselves tended to be more credible. The identity of informants will be kept confidential, he said.

Mr. Dwyer said that tips from civilians would be taken only at the insistence of a caller and then would be turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the local law-enforcement agency with jurisdiction. Tips pertaining to another service would be turned over to that service.

If the Army's investigation turns up evidence of espionage, Mr. Dwyer said, the F.B.I. would be called in, since it has jurisdiction over such cases in the United States.